1867 1910

WESTERN FAIR HISTORY

LONDON, ONTARIO,
CANADA

WESTERN FAIR HISTORY

LONDON ONTARIO,

CANADA

1867 - 1910

Compiled by A. M. Hunt

Main Building at Exhibition Grounds

Grand Stand at Exhibition Grounds

The Midway

WESTERN FAIR HISTORY

IN preparing a short history of the Western Fair from the time of its organization the writer is somewhat at a disadvantage, as the records for the first few years are not to be found, and the information recorded had to be obtained from the books of the East Middlesex and the London District Horticultural and Agricultural Societies We hope it will be of interest in that it will recall old associations, and names of men who have long since passed away, who were active in whatever they thought was for the best in building up a greater London, and the result of whose labors and efforts we of to-day are enjoying.

A. M. Hunt,
Sec'y. W. F. A.

January, 1st. 1911.

W. J. REID

President Western Fair Association, 1905-1910

A. M. HUNT

Secretary Western Fair Association, 1906-1910

THE WESTERN FAIR

In order to have a clear understanding of the beginning of this Association, it is necessary to go back a few years before its organization, and give a brief account of the East Middlesex Agricultural Society, and the London District Horticultural and Agricultural Society, as it was by the amalgamation of these two Societies at a joint meeting of their respective Boards held on the evening of April 22nd 1868 that the Western Fair Association was formed.

EAST MIDDLESEX SOCIETY.

This Society had been organized for several years previous to 1868, and held yearly a "Fall Show". Their Show Grounds were situated on Talbot Street north of Oxford Street. These "Fall Shows" were of great interest to the farming community

and in addition to exhibits of Live Stock etc., a "Plowing Match" was usually held.

The "Provincial Exhibition" an Exhibition which was held under the direction of the Provincial Government and passed around to the different ~~Provinces~~ centres, was held in London in the year 1865, and this, no doubt caused those interested to think that a yearly Exhibition on a larger scale than had been carried on, would be of great benefit to the City, and much more profitable for all. With this object in view a move was made at the Annual Meeting held January 15th, 1867 to dispose of the Talbot Street property, and to secure the use of the Military Grounds situated on Richmond Street, but the motion was lost and a Committee consisting of the President Mr. Magee, Mr.

Wheaton and Mr. John Elliott were appointed to confer with similar Committees from the City and County Councils "to discuss plans for holding larger Fairs in the near future."

A resolution was passed at a meeting at Balkwell's Hotel May 4th, 1867 asking the City, through Mr. Frank Smith, who was then Mayor, later Hon. Frank Smith for the use of the Military Grounds for their Fall Show. The Talbot Street grounds were leased to Mr. Harvey for the sum of $30.00 for the summer, at a meeting held May 25th of the same year, but as arrangements could not be made for the Military Grounds in time, the Show of that year was held in the usual place. At the Annual Meeting held Febuary 18th 1868, mention is made by the President, Mr. McGee in his Annual Address

that the Western Fair is about to be organized.

The Officers for East Middlesex Society for this year were the following :—

Mr. Geo. McGee .....President
Mr. John Wheaton .....1st Vice Pres.
Mr. John Pincombe.....2nd Vice Pres.
Mr. Henry Anderson .....Secretary
Mr. Abe Kerr .....Treasurer

Directors.

James Anderson, George Jarvis, Charles Tuckey, J. B. Lane, Alex. McKenzie, Thos. Friendship, and the Mayor of London.

At a meeting held March 21st 1868 a request was presented from the President of the London District Horticultural and Agricultural Society to meet their Board at 2 o'clock the same day. At this meeting it

was carried unanimously after considerable discussion that "It is expedient to unite the funds of both Societies for the purpose of establishing an Annual Exhibition, to be held in the City of London under the management of the joint Boards of Directors of both Societies."... A Committee was then appointed to prepare articles of union and report at a general meeting of the Boards to be held April 22nd of the same year.

THE LONDON DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL AND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY was organized as a result of a public meeting called by his Worship Mayor Frank Smith and held on November 13th 1867. At this meeting a Committee was appointed to canvas the citizens for funds to start an Exhibition. It was at a meeting held on the evening

of Febuary 6th 1868 that definite action was taken and a full list of officers elected as follows :—

*Jas. Johnston, Esq. .....President
Jas. M. Cousins, Esq. ..... Vice Pres.
Wm. McBride, Esq. .....Secretary
John Stuart, Esq. .....Treasurer

Directors.

Thos. Routledge, London Township
John Nixon, Westminster ,,
R. Tooley, Dorchester ,,
W. R. Vining, Nissouri ,,
W. S. Smith, Mayor of the City, Ald. John Campbell, Ald. Jas. Durand, John Elliott and Mayor Arkell of St. Thomas.

By-laws were drawn and Committees appointed for different purposes. It was during this year that the Government passed an Act allowing small grants to Agricultural

*Better known as Sunnyside Johnston

Societies holding shows, and this new Society at once took advantage of this Act and drew their grant, as well as East Middlesex Society, which was used to good advantage, and continued for years according to the membership each year.

At the meeting of April 22nd 1868 referred to previously the amalgamation of funds and efforts was accomplished, which has been continued to the present time, as both Societies referred to, are in existence to-day and their present officers still form a part of the Western Fair Association.

The officers appointed at this joint meeting were therefore the first Board of the Western Fair Association and were as follows :—

THE WESTERN FAIR

Mr. Jas. Johnston .....President

Mr. McGee .....Vice President

Secretaries.

Messrs. McBride and H. Anderson

Treasurers.

Messrs. Alex. Kerr and John Stuart

THE LATE WM. McBRIDE
First Secretary of the Western Fair

1 cut
cut

The name chosen was "The Western Fair Association." These two Societies thus uniting their forces at this meeting held April 22nd 1868 was the commencement of this Association, and by hard work during the following Spring and Summer were prepared to hold the

FIRST WESTERN FAIR

on September 29th and 30th of that same year. There has been an Exhibition each year since that time without a break and as we will not be able to give details in connection with them all it might be of interest to give some information regarding this the first one.

The Exhibition was held on the Military Grounds which were then situated on Richmond Street North, where the C.P.R. Station now stands.

It is on record as being a decided success although the weather especially on the second day, was far from favorable. Owing to the Crystal Palace which was situated on Wellington Street between what is now Hyman Street and Central Ave. being occupied by the Military, the old Drill Shed which stood where the Collegiate Institute now stands was used for such articles as required to be placed inside a building, while the Live Stock was shown on the Grounds near the Palace.

The Horse Classes are reported as being well filled and the following Exhibitors are mentioned :—

A. McTavish of Lobo Township, A. Laurie of London, Robert Murray and Alex. McArthur of Westminster, Wm. Saddler of Dorchester, J. W McLurg and T. McLean, Lobo. In

Cattle, Messrs. Peters and Pincombe showed a number of Devons and Mr. Geo. Robson of London Township carried away first prize for the best pair of working Oxen.

A few Sheep and Swine were shown, and a fine display of Poultry was made by Messrs Peters, Bogue and Routledge. A number of Implements were shown, the principal Exhibitors being Mr. John Elliott of the "Phoenix Foundry" London, showing a specimen of the Ball's Ohio combined Reaper and Mower. The "Jos. Hall Works" Oshawa, Reapers, with self rake attachment, "The Ayr Combined" shown by J. Watson of Ayr, Ont., "Anderson's Combined Pea Harvester and Hay Rake," exhibited by Stewart Bruce & Co., Seed Drills and Plows by Wm. and Jas. Walker of Westminster; Hand Grass

Seeder by Gro. Murray of Westminster; Messrs Maxwell and Whitelaw of Paris exhibited Seed Drills; E. Leonard exhibited Wood Sawing Machines. Plows were shown by Geo. Grey of London and J. McSherry of Iona. Ditching Machines by Robert Robson; Hay Forks by Eliot Grieve; Harrows by Jacob Metzer; Pumps by N. Reynolds and J. M. Cousins; Wagons by Plummer and Pacey; Straw Cutters by J. M. Cousins; Carriages by J. Campbell, Abbot Bros. Thompson and Moran, Smith and Gordon; McKellar and Stewart; Pacey and Sons; and Shotwell and Hodgins.

Furniture was shown by Mr. Moorehead and C. Coombs, Stoves by McClary's and many other articles of general interest were on Exhibiton. The Exhibition was considered

a success from a financial standpoint as the receipts including all grants was $3,670.20 and the expenditure including $1,530.00 paid in prizes was $2,833.45, leaving a balance to the credit of the Association of $837.75.

Another Provincial Exhibition was held in the year 1869 of which there is very little on record. $200.00 was appropriated for the use of the local Committee in preparing the grounds for the same. It was this Exhibition that Prince Arthur Duke of Connaught visited when in London and the attendance is reported as being very large.

At the Annual Meeting of East Middlesex Society held January 20th 1870, it was on motion unanimously decided to sell the Talbot Street property. Arrangements had, in the

meantime, been made with the City as to the permanent use of the Military Grounds for Exhibition purposes.

A large amount of money having been expended on buildings by the Government, assisted by the City, for the Provincial Exhibition of 1869, had left everything in good condition for The Western Fair of 1870, preparation for which was entered into heartily by both Societies, and the dates fixed for September 27th 28th and 29th, being a three day Fair.

This Exhibition was a success, and after expenses were paid, and prize money paid to the amount of $3,459.25 to Exhibitors, a balance of $950.12 was left in the hands of the Treasurer Mr. A. S. Emery. Up to this time very little had been paid in salaries to any officials, only a small

sum of about $20.00 a year being paid the Secretary for his work.

The Exhibition of 1871 was a four day Fair, being held September 26, 27, 28 and 29 with Mr. Rich. Tooley M.P.P. as President and Mr. William McBride Secretary.

In 1872 the Provincial Fair being held in Hamilton and from other causes it seems to have been somewhat of a hard year. $10,000 was offered in prizes $6,624.50 of which was paid. A very gratifying event which took place during this Exhibition was a visit of His Excellency The Governor General and Lady Dufferin.

Mr. Wm. Saunders was President this year and Mr. McBride Secretary, Mr. A. S. Emery being Treasurer.

The Exhibition of 1873 was The Provincial Fair again.

The Exhibition of 1874 seems to have had its troubles. An agitation was started early in the year to open certain streets through the Grounds, and dispose of the property for building purposes. The officers of the different Societies opposed this in every possible way, and succeeded in having a vote of the people taken, when it was carried by an overwhelming majority to leave the grounds as they were. This uncertainty seems to have had a bad effect on the Exhibition, but after all expenses and prize money were paid a cash balance of over $4,000 remained to the credit of the Association. Mr. Jas. Johnston was still President and Mr. McBride Secretary.

Of the 1875 Exhibition very little is left on record. $12,000 was offerred in prizes of which over $7,000

was paid. New stables were erected this year and new fencing placed around the grounds.

The Exhibition of 1876 seems to have been very unfortunate on account of bad weather, and while the exhibits were good and a large number of them, the attendance was small. This being the year of the Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia, a large number of farmers and others having attended there it had the effect of reducing the attendance during this Exhibition.

The Exhibition of 1877 was the Provincial one.

Of the Exhibitions of 1878 and 1879 there is very little information. They were a success financially as it is found that at the close of 1879 Exhibition there was a balance to the credit of the Association of $5,459.07,

after having paid prizes of over $7,000.00 and construction account of $1,491.35. The officers of the Society had been changed somewhat during these years. Mr. A. McCormick was now President, Messrs John Nixon and Thos. Partridge, Jr. Vice Presidents, Wm. McBride Secretary, Wm. Belton Treasurer and J. B. Smyth Superintendent of Grounds. County Directors Jos. Johnston, John Wheaton, R. Whetter, Robt. Dreaney, John Kennedy, D. McKenzie, Geo. Douglas, H. Anderson, G. Scatcherd, Leon. O'Dell. City Directors John Christie, John Plummer, W. Y. Brunton, John H. Griffith, A. S. Emery, John Williams, Geo. D. Sutherland, C. W. Andrews.

Auditors J. S. Dewer and A. G. Smyth.

In the year 1880 an agitation was

again started to sell the grounds, and a By-law submitted to the people which was voted down again. The Exhibition was held and showed a balance on hand of over $5,000.00. Mr. J. B. Smyth being Treasurer.

The year of 1881 was the Provincial Exhibition. It was during this year that the Secretary Mr. McBride was accidently drowned in the Victoria disaster on the river Thames, and suitable resolutions of sympathy were passed by the different Boards referring to the same. Mr. J. B. Smyth was elected to succeed him.

The Exhibition of 1882 was held on the first week of October, which was a very successful year. Over $11,000 was taken from the sale of tickets $1,600 from the sale of booths and privileges, and $1,000 each was given

over from the two Societies as grants. Over $8,000.00 was paid in prizes; $1,200.00 for advertising and nearly $2,000 for construction work. The year closed with a balance of over $6,000 reported by the Treasurer Mr. D. McKenzie.

The prosperity attending the 1882 Exhibition seems to have inspired the Directors to large expenditures for 1883. $2,400 was added to the prize list. Some attractions were secured and an evening performance was attempted. A grand stand was erected at a cost of $1,100 and a fence placed around the horse ring costing $300. Over $10.000 was paid in prizes and although the receipts were good the surplus dropped about $2,000.00, and the Board was blamed for adding so much expense.

The Exhibition of 1884 is on re-

cord as being very successful as regards entries and exhibits. The weather conditions were bad and the attendance is estimated to have fallen off by six or eight thousand, and it was passed on for the next Board to seriously consider a reduction in the prize list, as the amount paid out in prizes exceeded the gate receipts by $375. The general opinion seems to have been that more money must be spent in advertising the Exhibition.

The Provincial Exhibition was again held in 1885.

In 1886 the Exhibition seems to have been considerably disturbed on account of certain portions of the grounds having been sold, but the best use possible was made of the balance. Application was made to Hon. John Carling for the use of the

stables at the old Brewery in case they were needed which was freely granted. The Exhibition was held under great disadvantage from various causes and after it was finally settled up the surplus was found to be only $2,857.05. Mr. Richard Whetter was President, Mr. George McBroom Secretary and Mr. D. McKenzie Treasurer. This seems to have been a critical period in the history of the Exhibition, but notwithstanding the discouragement a number of citizens met together on the evening of April 28th 1887 at a Provisional Board meeting held in their office, which had been established in the Victoria Buildings opposite the City Hall, and proceeded to organize for the Exhibition of that year. A bill had been presented to the Legislature in the meantime ask-

ing for an Act of Incorporation for "The Western Fair Association" signed by James Cowan, Mayor of the City, A. W. Porte, J. W. Little, Richard Whetter, Lawrence Cleverdon, Donald McKenzie, Geo. Douglas, John Walker, Thos. Green, W. Y. Brunton, T. H. Marsh, John Green, R. C. Struthers, John Wolfe, W. J. Reid, A. M. Smart, W. R. Hobbs, T. R. Parker, Robert Lewis and M. Masuret. This had been granted and went into effect April 18th of the same year. This Act gave membership in the Society by representatives being appointed from the City Council, East Middlesex Agricultural Society, the London District Horticultural and Agricultural Society, the Board of Trade and various other Societies and organizations, that might from time to time apply for

membership. The Board of Directors was to consist of not less than fifteen or more than twenty-four members. The Mayor of the City and five Aldermen, six from East Middlesex Agricultural Society and twelve to be elected at each annual meeting of the membership making twenty-four in all.

Notices were then sent out and the first annual meeting under the new Act was held on April 29th 1887, at which the following Directors were elected. Messrs. A. W. Porte, F. B. Leys, W. Y. Brunton, W. M. Gartshore, T. H. Marsh, W. R. Hobbs, A. M. Smart, R. Lewis, W. J. Reid, J. W. Little, J. D. Sharman and Allen Bogue. At a subsequent meeting Mr. Porte was elected President, Mr. McBroom Secretary and Mr. D. McKenzie Treasurer.

THE WESTERN FAIR

This seems to have been a very strenuous year as the question of suitable grounds had to be considered, as the Richmond St. property had been broken up by the entrance of the C. P. R. and other causes. Application was at once made to the City Council for a By-law to be submitted to the people, asking for an expenditure of a sum of money sufficient to purchase new grounds and erect suitable buildings thereon. East Middlesex Society released their claim on the old grounds for certain consideration in the new ones and Queens Park was purchased. The old grounds were sold and active preparations made for the Exhibition of 1887 to be held the entire week of September 19th.

The Exhibition was in every way a success. It was carried on in a much

larger way than any former ones. Large and commodious buildings had been erected at an expense of about $60,000, a good half mile track had been built and everything put in excellent condition. The total receipts for this year were $19,619.60 and the surplus after paying all expenses and prizes was only $413.40. This of course, was only the Exhibition account and does not include grounds or buildings.

The Annual meeting for 1888 took place on Febuary 15th of that year. The full Board of Directors and Officers elected were as follows :—

A. W. Porte .....President
Geo. Douglas .....1st Vice Pres.
J. W. Little.....2nd Vice Pres.
Geo. McBroom .....Secretary
D. McKenzie .....Treasurer
J. Hook, Superintendent of Grounds

Directors.

R. Whetter, Mayor Cowan, Ald. Callard, Ald. Taylor, Ald. Connor, Ald. Winnett, John Pope, W. R. Hobbs, T. H. Marsh, F. B. Leys, A. M. Smart, W. M. Gartshore, R. Vining, Allen Bogue, A. J. B. McDonald, Robert Lewis, J. D. Sharman, W. Y. Brunton, W. J. Reid and F. Shore.

The Board took a very active interest in their work, and at once organized Committees to prepare for the Exhibition. It was decided to hold a nine day Fair, and the dates were fixed for September 20th to 29th. $2,500 was appropriated for Printing and Advertising, $4,000 for Attractions and $2,000 for Improvements on Grounds and Buildings. This Exhibition appears to have been a great success. The gate receipts were 20% in advance of the previous

year; $2,366 was taken for booths and privileges, and the receipts were all good. The expenses were also heavy, nearly $9,000.00 being paid in prizes, and the year ended with only a small cash balance of $281.31. A Dog Show under the control of the London Kennel Club, was held this year of which there is no record left.

The Exhibition of 1889 was the "Provincial" as per arrangement with the new Board.

On January 20th of this year, Mr. Geo. McBroom resigned the position of Secretary of the Association, and Mr. Thos. A. Browne was appointed his successor.

At the Annual Meeting held February 1890 the following Directors were elected :—

A. W. Porte, J. W. Little, W. J. Reid, W. R. Hobbs, T. H. Marsh, A.

M. Smart, W. M. Gartshore, R. Lewis, J. S. Pearce, W. T. Brunton, Geo. M. Reid and Wm. Yates. The Directors from the City Council were Mayor Taylor, Aldermen Jones, Garratt, Wyatt, O'Meara and Dreaney; and from East Middlesex Messrs. R. Vinning A. R. Rowat, D. McKenzie, Jas. Bell, F, B. Leys and Wm. Scatcherd. Mr. Jos. Hook was appointed Superintendent of Grounds, and preparations made for the Exhibition. The dates were fixed for September 18th to 27th, the Live Stock to be there from 22nd to 27th. On account of the damage done to the buildings while idle during the year the City Council were asked to place a caretaker in charge of the Grounds and Buildings for the entire year. A Dog Show was held this year also, but at a loss of $160.00. The Ex-

hibition proper was a great success. Such distinguished visitors as Lord Aberdeen, Hon. John Dryden, Prof. Wm. Saunders and others were present and expressed their approval and appreciation at the extent of the Exhibition. During this year a 75 horse power boiler was installed for power in the Machinery Hall. This year ended with a cash balance of $2,277.66.

The Directorate for the year 1891 was changed very little, Col. Leys name was substituted for C... ...rt-shore who came to the Board from the City Council, and Wm. Walker took Mr. Leys place from East Middlesex. During the year Mr. Marsh resigned, and Mr. Wm. Jones was elected in his place. The dates for the Exhibition were Sept. 17th to 26th. The Grounds were improved during

this year by laying out drives and walks through them, and a number of trees planted, which added considerably to the general appearance. The year ended with a surplus of over $5,000 after transfering $2,096 to Capital Account.

The dates fixed for 1892 were September 15th to 24th. From the standpoint of entries and attendance this Exhibition was in advance of all others previously held, but as was always the case the expenses were also larger. Over $10,000 was paid in prizes and the year ended with the surplus somewhat less than 1891.

The Exhibition of 1893 was held September 14th to 23rd. Some new Directors appeared this year on the Board from the City Council as follows Ald. Thos. Jones, Ald. J. Welford, Ald. J. Pritchett, Ald. J. W.

Jones, and from East Middlesex, Mr. Chas. Trebilcock and Wm. Moore. In the Live Stock Department the entries were larger this year than any previous Exhibition. The Machinery Hall was filled. During this year the last payment of $2,250 was made on the property bought by the Association on the west side of the Park, and for which they paid $8,900 not including interest. There had also been paid on Queens Park property up to this time, in addition to the above, $7,658.48 for construction work and permanent improvements, and had spent for furniture and chattels $3,134.10, so that it might well be said that the Western Fair Association had come to stay. The year 1893 ended with a cash surplus of $5,006.57.

The Exhibition of 1894 passed off

successfully, the gate receipts showing a slight decrease...The plan of having a daily parade of the prize animals inside the ring was adopted, and proved very satisfactory. The Directors and Officers were the same as for 1893.

The Exhibition of 1895 was held September 12th to 21st. On the evening of September 12th, the opening day of the Exhibition, a disastrous fire occurred, which swept out the fine Carriage Building, and Poultry Building, and while the Exhibits were all saved, the loss of the buildings was felt keenly by the Board. Temporary quarters were at once provided in tents, and other buildings, and the Exhibition held as if nothing had happened. President Porte in his address at the Annual Meeting held February 19th, 1896 is reported as saying that "although

the circumstances of the fire was very unfortunate, that the City Council had already taken the matter up, and plans had been prepared for new buildings, not only to replace the ones destroyed, but also new Horse and Cattle barns, Sheep and Swine pens, and a re-arrangement of the other buildings, for which $25,000.00 had been voted by the Council.

The Exhibition of 1896 was a record breaker. The receipts were over $4,000 more than 1895. The new buildings had been built and $8,324.49 paid by the Association toward the same. The gates and grand stand receipts were over $19,000.00. The booths and privileges $2,896.00 over $10,000.00 was paid in prizes, $2,500 in advertising and printing and $4,000 in attractions. The year ended with a cash balance of $928.70

after paying the above amounts on buildings and improvements.

At the Annual Meeting held on February 17th 1897, Capt. Porte resigned the Presidency of the Association on account of his removing from the City. A suitable resolution was passed by the Board and a present of a handsome watch and chain was made to Mr. Porte.

The following Board was elected for 1897 :—

Col. F. B. Leys .....President
Mayor J. W. Little .....1st Vice Pres.
Allen Bogue .....2nd Vice Pres.

Directors :—In addition to the above from the Annual Meeting, Messrs A. M. Smart, Jas. H. Brown, J. S. Pearce, W. M. Spencer, W. R. Hobbs, Wm. Yates, W. J. Reid, Geo. Taylor, Lt.-Col. W. M. Gartshore, Col. R. Lewis and Capt. A. W. Porte.

From the City Council :—Ald. Chas. Taylor, J. Jutkins, J. W. McCallum, R. W. Bennett and Joseph Johnston.
From E. Middlesex :—D. McKenzie, John Kennedy, Wm. Moore, C. E. Trebilcock and J. Laidlaw.
Thos. A. Browne .....Secretary
Mr. D. McKenzie .....Treasurer
Jos. Hooke, Superintendent Grounds and Buildings.

The Exhibition was held from September 9th to 17th of this year and was a very successful one. The entries were good, the attendance large, and after paying all expenses and prizes to the amount of $9,800.00, there was a cash balance of $3,154.00 in the Bank, after paying out $2,017 on construction work and improvements.

In 1898 two new names appear on the list of Directors as elected at

the Annual Meeting, Messrs R. Shaw-Wood and R. A. Carrothers. Lt.-Col. W. M. Gartshore was elected President. Mr. J. S. Pearce 1st Vice President; and Allen Bogue 2nd Vice President; Mr. Jas. H. Brown who was Chairman of Grounds and Buildings acting as Superintendent of s. . During this year an Art Annex was built to the Main Building at a cost of $1,682. The year closed with a cash balance of $8,496.00 and a recommendation for the next Board to place $5,000.00 of this amount in a special reserve fund, to provide for a "rainy day." Also a recommendation to raise the prize list as only about $9,000 had been paid out this year.

The Exhibition of 1899 was held September 7th to 16th. In May of this year, Mr. Thos. Browne having

been appointed to the position of Postmaster of the City, resigned the position of Secretary and Mr. J. A. Nelles was appointed as his successor. A committee was appointed and a suitable memento was secured and presented to Mr. Browne for his long and efficient services. During this year large expenditures were undertaken by the Board, some $6,222 being expended on Grounds and Buildings, the principal item being $2,859 for a new open stand. At a Board meeting held September 12th, during the Exhibition, Mr. Jas. H. Brown was presented with a Gold Watch on behalf of the Association for his services as Chairman of the Grounds and Buildings, and Superintendent over the large amount of work done during the year. The year was a good one financially. After paying

all expenses the Treasurer reported a cash balance of $2,631.00. During the winter of this year the Provincial Fat Stock Dairy and Dressed Poultry Show was held upon the grounds, and occupied the buildings, but the records show that it was not very well patronized by the general public.

Very little change was made in the Board for 1900 with the exception of the Directors sent from the City Council who were nearly all new men. They were the following; Mayor F. G. Rumball, Aldermen. Jas. Malloch, Richard Wray, W. H. Winnett, J. W. Bartlett and H. Winder. Lt.-Col. Gartshore was again elected President, J. A. Nelles Secretary and D. McKenzie Treasurer. The dates were September 5th to 15th and reports show a very good year. Gates

and Grand Stand receipts were over $18,000.00 and booths and privileges $4,494.00. Prizes to the amount of $11,000.00 were paid; over $3.000.00 expended on Grounds and Buildings and a surplus of $3,633.00 was reported at the end of the year.

At the Annual Meeting for 1901, one new Director was elected, Mr. Geo. G. McCormick, one new one from East Middlesex namely Mr. T. Hardy Shore and five new ones from the Council, viz. Ald. C. T. Campbell, Wm. Gerry, N. Cooper, J. Garratt and Geo. Olmstead. Lt.-Col. Gartshore was again elected President, J. A. Nelles Secretary and D. McKenzie Treasurer.

The By-laws were revised this year, and several important changes made, one of which was that no paid official can be on the Board of Direc-

tors. The dates were fixed for September 5th to 14th. In August of this year Mr. J. S. Pearce resigned and Mr. Isaac Waterman was elected in his place, and made Chairman of the Main Building. At the same meeting Mr. Jas. H. Brown resigned his position as Director and Mr. W. Gammage was elected in his place, and made Chairman of the Horticultural Committee. During this year the buildings were painted which added very much to their appearance. The weather conditions were bad during the Exhibition, the gates and grand stand receipts dropping to $12,813.85, over $11,000 was paid in prizes, and $2,921 on Grounds and Buildings. After all expenses were met the cash balance reported was less than $100.00.

Very little change was made in

the election of Directors at the Annual Meeting for 1902, during the year two of them were removed by death, the late Secretary Mr. Thos. Browne and Mr. John Kennedy. Mr. Geo. M. Reid was elected to fill Mr. Browne's term. Col. Gartshore was again elected President, and Mr. Nelles Secretary. This Exhibition was a success in every particular. The President is quoted as saying in his Annual Address that while they started with nothing in the Treasury at the beginning of the year, after meeting all obligations they were enabled to carry forward a balance of $2,901.07.

The Board of 1903 was formed with very few changes except from the City Council, Mayor Adam Beck, Ald. Dr. Beecher, R. Matthews, Wm. Wyatt and R. S. Abram being new

men. Col. Gartshore was again elected President, J. A. Nelles Secretary and Jas. H. Brown Superintendent of Grounds and Buildings. During this year the general offices were located in the rooms occupied at present, corner of Richmond and Carling Streets, second floor. The dates were fixed September 11th to 19th. Dur- the year Mr. Isaac Waterman and Mr. Shaw-Wood having died, Messrs. J. Pringle and J. W. Jones were elected to the Board. It was during this year that the necessity of a new Dairy Building forced itself upon the Board, and the President in his Annual Address called attention to the fact. Although Thursday, one of the principal days of the Exhibition was wet, a cash surplus of $4,494.00 was reported on hand. This amount was divided by placing $4,000 in the

Bank to the Trustee account and the balance to Current Account.

The first business taken up by the Board of 1904 was the new Dairy Building. After considerable work on the part of the Board, and after several deputations had waited on the Government regarding a grant, it was decided to build; tenders were called for accordingly, and the new Dairy Building was erected in time for the Exhibition, a grant of $10.000 having been secured from the Ontario Government toward the same. The Exhibition of this year was honored by the presence of the Premier Hon. G. W. Ross and Hon. John Dryden, then Minister of Agriculture, who officially opened the new Building on Tuesday, September 13th. This is reported as a good year and ended with a cash surplus to the credit of

both accounts in the Bank of the sum of $6,864.73.

Several new Directors were elected on the Board for 1905. The full Board were as follows :—

Elected at the Annual Meeting :—Lt-Col. W. M. Gartshore, Lt-Col. F. B. Leys, Lt-Col. J. W. Little, Messrs. A. M. Smart, Wm. Gammage, Wm. McNeil, Geo. M. Reid, W. J. Reid, Geo. G. McCormick, R. A. Carrothers, John Pringle and J. W. Jones.

From the City Council :—Mayor Campbell, Ald. J. H. Saunders, R. Matthews, W. Carson, Wm. Gerry and R. S. Abram,

From East Middlesex :—Messrs Allen Bogue, Wm. Fleming, Wm. Moore, C. E. Trebilcock, T. H. Shore and George Scatcherd.

Mr. W. J. Reid was elected President, J. A. Nelles Secretary, D.

McKenzie Treasurer and Jas. H. Brown Superintendent of Grounds and Buildings. The dates this year were September 8th to 16th.

A motion was carried at a meeting held March 11th of this year to increase the prize list in the Live Stock Department ten per cent. During the Exhibition of this year Col. Leys died, and a suitable resolution was passed by the Board. This year closed with a cash balance of $9,897.26 in the Bank.

For the year of 1906 two new Directors were elected at the Annual Meeting viz. Dr. G. A. Routledge and A. W. Smith. Two new ones from the City Council Mayor Judd and Ald. Armstrong, and one from East Middlesex, Mr. R. Oke. Mr. W. J. Reid was again elected President. During this year Mr. J. A. Nelles

who had acted as Secretary for five years resigned, and A. M. Hunt was appointed his successor. It was also during this year that the death occurred of Mr. G. F. Jewell who had for years acted as auditor. His son, Mr. F. G. Jewell was appointed to succeed him. There was a very large expenditure of money this year on Grounds and Buildings, toward which the City contributed $2,000.00. The Exhibition was very successful. The Gates and Grand Stand receipts were over $23,000.00; booths and privileges brought in $4,786.00 and other receipts accordingly. Over $11,500.00 was paid in prizes, $3,000 spent in advertising, $5,600.00 in attractions and the year closed with a Bank balance of the sum of $11,667.00.

One change only was made in

election of Directors for 1907. Lt-Col. R. McEwen was elected to succeed Mr. Smith. A Dog Show was held this year which was a success in every way. $6,260 was expended this year on the Grounds and Buildings. A system of sewerage was installed, and large lavatories built. A large addition was built to the Horse barns, and the buildings all painted, added greatly to the general appearance of the grounds. $2,000.00 of the above was paid by the City and the balance by the Association. The attendance was large and receipts good, and after paying all claims, and meeting the above expenditure the year closed with a cash balance of $10,742.00.

Of the Exhibitions of 1908-9-10 very little need be said. Large expenditures of money on grounds and

buildings have been made each year, toward which the City have contributed liberally. A new open stand had been built, a new building for Cement Exhibits, was erected last year, and a cold storage system installed for the Cheese Exhibits. The track has been re-clayed and the interior of almost all the buildings changed. Dog and Cat Shows with liberal prizes have been held each year. Over $17,000.00 was offered in prizes in 1910, of which $14,600.00 was paid. The Ontario Government are now making a grant of about $1,200.00 each year direct to the Association instead of through the other Societies, and the two Societies, viz. East Middlesex and the London District Agricultural continue to pay over all their available funds yearly. The Board will close the Ex-

hibition year of 1910 with a surplus of $10,000.00 after paying during the past three years out of their own funds $7,500.00 towards permanent improvements.

Since the organization of the Association the City has expended over $125,000.00, and the Western Fair Association have paid out of their own Treasury, on Grounds and Buildings account alone, over $80,000.00, all of which has gone to the merchants and workmen of London for supplies and labor...Thousands of dollars have been paid for caretakers and help of all kinds, over $350,000 has been paid in prizes to Exhibitors, which all goes to show to some extent the amount of money put in circulation through the medium of this Association. There are only four officials who receive salaries viz. Sec-

retary, Treasurer, Superintendent and Auditor none of whom give their whole time to the work.

Great praise should be given the Directors who have stayed by this Association year after year, who, without any remuneration whatever, have given freely of their time to advance its interest, knowing, as they did, that whatever was for the best interest of the Association was also of great advantage to the City of London, and all will admit that this Association is one of the best assets the City has at the present time. The Directors each time an Exhibition is arranged for, assume a liability of about $45,000 and should the Exhibition, from unfavorable weather, or any other cause prove a failure they would be personally responsible for these obligations. It

therefore becomes the Citizens generally to help by every effort possible to make the Exhibitions each year more successful. The Board are prepared to extend their efforts still farther, to spend more money in advertising the Exhibition, and thereby advertise London to enlarge the prize list and thereby induce more Exhibitors to come, if the Citizens of London and vicinity and the City Council give them to feel they are with them in this regard and thus build up the Exhibition and by so doing, build up a greater London.

HENRY & COLERICK THE PRINTERS